

HOUSE BILL 216

By Hardaway

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39;
Title 40; Title 41 and Title 50, relative to persons
released from incarceration.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. There is created a special joint committee that shall be known as the Committee to Study A Second Chance for Ex-Offenders, herein referred to as "the committee."

SECTION 2. The committee shall study Tennessee laws affecting ex-offenders who are released from incarceration at the conclusion of their sentences and amendment of such laws to ensure such ex-offenders can re-enter the community in a manner that fosters their success and discourages recidivism.

SECTION 3. The committee shall particularly address issues relating to background checks of ex-offenders for employment, restoration of certain or all rights upon release, creation of programs whereby ex-offenders obtain funds to start businesses in the state, creation of programs whereby employers offer employment opportunities to ex-offenders, skills training workshops for ex-offenders and any other issues that the committee deems appropriate.

SECTION 4. The committee shall consist of three (3) members of the house of representatives and three (3) members of the senate, to be appointed by the respective speakers. The commissioners of correction, economic and community development, and labor and workforce development shall serve as ex officio voting members of the committee.

SECTION 5. All appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the committee upon request of the chair.

SECTION 6. All members of the committee shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the general assembly.

SECTION 7. The committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the general assembly, and at its first meeting shall elect a chair, vice-chair and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

SECTION 8. The committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the One Hundred Seventh General Assembly no later than February 1, 2012, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.

SECTION 9. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.